

## PATENT SPECIFICATION

1,058,591



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Date of filing Complete Specification: January 22, 1964.

Application Date: February 7, 1963.

No. 5086/63

Complete Specification Published: February 15, 1967.

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Index at Acceptance:—B7 B14.

Int. Cl.:—B 62 d.

## COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

## DRAWINGS ATTACHED

## Improvements relating to Trolleys

I, SAMUEL LASSMAN, a British Subject, of 17, Lansdowne Road, London, N.3, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to trolleys and has for its object to provide an improved construction of trolley, that is, one which, when not in use in a flat-out condition, may be folded into an appreciably smaller compass for ease of storage and transporting, for instance, in the manner of a suitcase.

In accordance with this invention a foldable trolley comprises at least two sections of tray-form interconnected by hinges so that, by swinging said sections upon their hinges, surfaces of said sections may be disposed in coplanar relationship to serve, when thus disposed, as the top surface of a trolley, the sections of the trolley being adapted for fitting thereto ground wheels which afford wheeled support to the trolley in its open condition, and a pull-handle permanently hinged to one of the trolley sections and adapted to be stowed in the folded trolley when not in use.

When the trolley is not required for use as such the ground wheels are moved out of supporting positions and the several sections folded one upon another to form when thus folded an article having a superficial area approximately one half or less of the extended trolley. Suitable means may be provided for retaining the trolley in the folded condition.

The nature of the hingeing between the trolley sections and the mounting of the ground wheels may be such that when the trolley is extended there is no likelihood of its collapse, but if desired means may be provided to latch or lock the trolley in its

extended position. The ground wheels may be removable or simply withdrawable from 45 positions of use, as desired.

An embodiment of the invention is illustrated, by way of example, in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a two-section trolley in its closed condition,

Figure 2 is a perspective view showing the two sections of the trolley partly open, and illustrating how ground wheels and a pull-handle may be stowed away in the closed 55 trolley, and

Figure 3 is a perspective view showing the opened trolley, with the ground wheels and the pull-handle in their position of use.

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in the drawings the foldable trolley comprises a pair of similar sections A and A1, each of tray form and comprising a rigid frame 1 of wood or metal, and a floor 2 in the form of a plain flat plate made of any suitable material. The sections A, A1 are of rectilinear form and conveniently of rectangular form with the long side of the rectangle less than the minimum size doorway through which the trolley may need to 70 be wheeled.

A long side of the frame 1 of section A is connected by hinges 3 to the corresponding long side of the frame 1 of section A1, in such wise that when the hinged sections 75 are swung open upon hinges 3 these connected frame sides lie collateral and abutting, with the flat faces of the tray floors 2 coplanar. Holes or similar sockets 4 are provided (preferably in staggered relation) 80 and conveniently in the form of flanged metal bushes recessed into the long sides of the hinge-connected frames 1 and at the outer corners of the two tray sections A, A1 for the reception of the shanks 5 of detach- 85 able wheel units 6 which when not required

for use may be mounted in clips or other fastenings (not visible) within the tray interiors.

Alternatively, captive, instead of removable, wheel units may be used, that is, the shanks may be pivotally or swivelly attached to the tray section frame sides, so as to be swingable between positions of use in which they project from the undersides of the inverted tray sections and out-of-use positions in which they lie collapsed within the tray sections.

When wheels (removable or captive) are disposed as above described there is no tendency of the opened-out trolley to collapse or move from the opened-out position, but if desired swing-over latches or slidable bolts or the like may be provided to retain the trolley in its opened-out condition.

When the two equal-size tray sections A, A1 are folded together on their hinges they form a readily transportable article, somewhat similar in appearance to a suitcase (as shown in Fig. 1) and fasteners 7, such as ones similar to those provided on suitcases, may be provided to hold the tray sections in the folded-up position. A hand grip 8 may be provided, for instance, on section A as shown, which hand grip may fold out of the way under alongside one end of the opened trolley (Fig. 3) or project out for handling purposes (Fig. 1). A pull-handle 9 for the trolley is provided and is of a folding construction so that it may be stowed in the folded trolley when not in use. In this embodiment the folded handle 9 is adapted to be accommodated within the tray section A1. As shown in Figure 2, the base of the handle 9 is permanently secured

by a hinge bracket 10 to the long side of the frame of section A1 remote from that secured by the hinge 3.

If desired removable or captive wheels may be used to transport the trolley when in its folded-up form.

#### WHAT I CLAIM IS :—

1. A foldable trolley comprising at least two sections of tray-form interconnected by hinges so that, by swinging said sections upon their hinges, surfaces of said sections may be disposed in coplanar relationship to serve, when thus disposed, as the top surface of a trolley, the section of the trolley being adapted for fitting thereto ground wheels which afford wheeled support to the trolley in its open condition, and a pull-handle permanently hinged to one of the trolley sections and adapted to be stowed in the folded trolley when not in use.

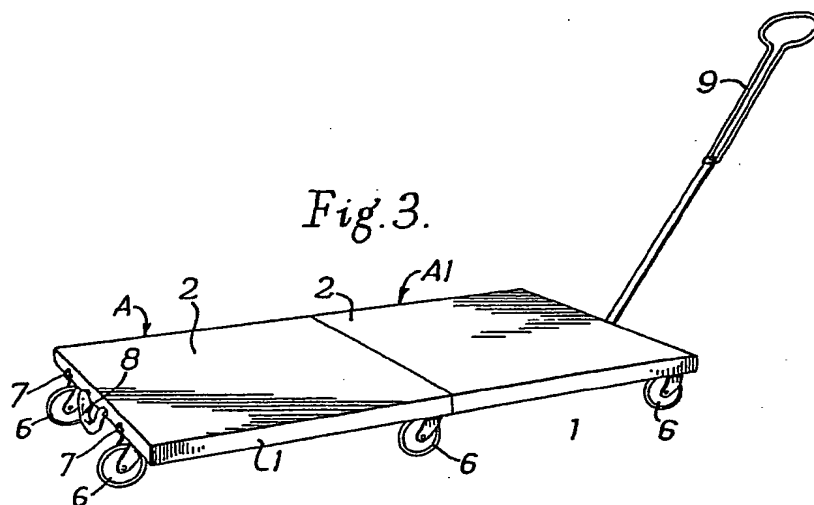
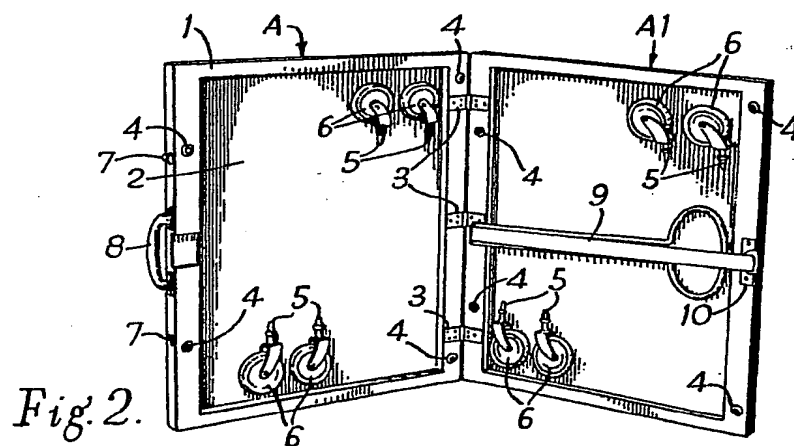
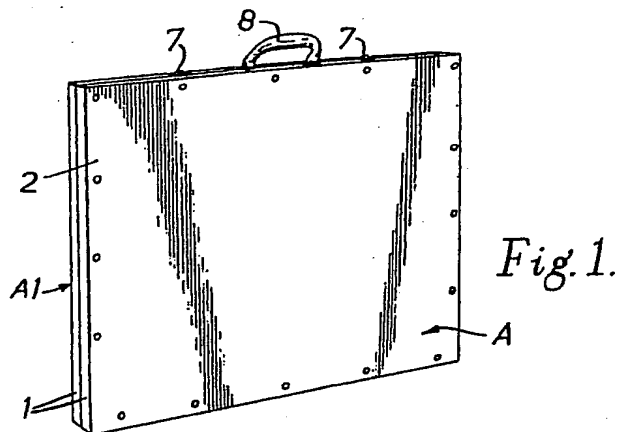
2. A trolley according to claim 1 in which provision is made for stowing away, within the sectional trolley, when folded, a number of detachable wheel units, sockets being provided adjacent the ends and/or sides of the trolley sections to receive the shanks of the wheel units.

3. A trolley according to claim 1, wherein captive wheel units are provided, which are pivotable on the trolley sections between stowed positions and positions of use.

4. A foldable trolley constructed substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

STEVENS, LANGNER, PARRY &  
ROLLINSON,  
Chartered Patent Agents,  
Agents for the Applicant.

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